

**MINUTES OF THE
QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, June 28, 2000 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 405 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. David H. Steele, Senate Chair
Rep. Ron Bigelow, House Chair
Sen. Beverly Evans
Sen. Pete Suazo
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Trisha Beck
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
Rep. Kevin S. Garn
Rep. Raymond W. Short
Rep. A. Lamont Tyler
Rep. David Ure
Rep. Richard L. Walsh

Members Absent:

Sen. D. Edgar Allen
Rep. Eli H. Anderson

Staff Present:

Mr. Stewart E. Smith,
Managing Research Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. **Call to Order** - Chair Bigelow called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.
2. **Committee Business** -

MOTION: Rep. Ure moved to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2000 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Valentine, and Rep. Tyler absent for the vote.

3. **Utah Science Center Authority** - Dr. Joseph D. Andrade, Professor and Co-Chair, University of Utah Department of Bioengineering, Utah Science Center Authority Board, introduced the members of the Utah Science Center Authority Board some of whom made presentations to the committee.

Dr. Suzanne Winters, Utah Science Center Authority Board, presented a perspective of the development and evolution of the Science Center Authority and its relation to the Science Advisor's Office. She is on a leave of absence as State Science Advisor and is currently serving as the Executive Director of the Escalante Center in an effort to get a science education and research center established in Escalante around the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Dr. Winters said the science council was formed in 1973 under Governor Calvin Rampton to serve as a technical advisory board to both the governor and the legislative branches of the state. She explained the difference between the Science Council and the Science Center Authority. She said the Science Center Authority was created in 1993 with a specific purpose of building a science center using the old Union Pacific Depot. Unfortunately, the project was ahead of its time and did not happen. In 1998, she said because the project was not moving along, the

governor asked for the resignation of all the members of the Science Center Authority because of its failure at that point to move forward at the Depot. The governor then appointed an interim authority which consists of Dr. Andrade, Dr. Lynn Blake, Dr. Winn Horton, and Dr. Winters. She said the purpose of that interim authority was to oversee what was then called Leonardo on Wheels but is now called Discovery on Wheels. She further explained the difference between the Science Center Authority, the Science Council, and the Science Advisor. She emphasized that they are separate and distinct bodies with different missions.

Dr. Clint Eliason, Utah Science Center Authority Board, discussed the current activities of the Science Center Authority. He presented an overview on the Discovery on Wheels traveling science center program. He said this science center consists of highly interactive exhibits that involve participants in hands-on activities. He indicated that the Discovery on Wheels is housed at the Utah State University Campus and is free of charge to the public. He concluded that the science center will increase knowledge and improve the climate for science and technology for all segments of the population.

Rep. Garn asked how the program is being funded. Dr. Eliason responded that the funding comes from the schools, charging \$2.00 per student, with the remaining costs being covered through small grants. It was noted that no funding comes from the state for the authority.

Dr. Winter Horton, Utah Science Center Authority Board, addressed the interest in expanding the current set of activities to a broader major science center for the region. He explained the proposal of moving the hands-on science center to the old Salt Lake City Public Library or to the fair park.

Dr. Andrade said they are very committed to building a major science center for the area. He asked for the Utah Science Center Authority to be maintained and given the opportunity to act in developing the science center.

Rep. Short suggested having a science display in the capitol for the public.

Sen. Steele inquired about the need to maintain a science center authority as a quasi-governmental entity. He asked if they had considered other alternative ways to meet the objectives of the science center authority. Dr. Andrade explained that if those providing funding believe the state is involved and interested in the process, this involvement sends a message of credibility.

Rep. Buffmire spoke in support of the concept of Utah learning more in the science education area.

Chair Bigelow addressed the authority's primary roles of education and tourism. He asked what the compelling reason was that the State of Utah should be involved in these other than for fund-raising purposes. He noted that the educational part is driven by universities and the State Board of Education. He said that tourism pulls completely away from education and questioned whether the money would be better spent on engineering science education into the schools.

Dr. Andrade responded that an interactive, hands-on science center does have an educational mission which is called informal science education. The goal there is not only for elementary, junior high, and high school students, but for potential engineers, families, and adults. He said he did not want the missions totally separated because of the way this structure is centered around the family.

4. State Auditor's Working Group on Independent and Quasi-governmental Entities -

Mr. Auston G. Johnson, Utah State Auditor, and Ms. Betsy Ross, Director of Legal Affairs, Utah State Auditor's Office, presented an overview and history of the state auditor's 1996 working group on independent and quasi-governmental entities. They presented a slide presentation on what they had accomplished and learned.

Mr. Johnson grouped quasi-governmental entities into three groups: 1) independent state agencies; 2) independent public corporations; and 3) quasi public corporations. He discussed concerns regarding the quasi-governmental entities which included exemptions from state oversight, liability issues, and who provides the oversight. To address these concerns, the working group was formed in 1996. The working group suggested that the following questions be asked regarding each entity. 1) What does your entity do? 2) Does it need to be a part of the state and why? 3) From what specific oversight statute do you require exemptions and why? 4) In what state services do you participate? Mr. Johnson concluded that the working group put together model legislation that would determine how to designate an entity as either a state department or a stand alone.

Ms. Ross presented an overview on the model legislation and explained how the entities were categorized.

Rep. Garn inquired about the reason the agenda item, "Utah Communications Agency Network," had been taken off the agenda. Mr. Smith relayed the phone message from Mr. Steven Proctor's office.

Rep. Garn expressed concern that a representative for the Utah Communications Agency Network did not report at this hearing. He indicated that there is a problem with the process and oversight of independent agencies.

MOTION: Rep. Garn moved for the chairs to ask the quasi-governmental agencies that come before this committee to answer the questions that were presented by the State Auditor's working group and maybe other questions that should be added to the list. Rep. Garn also indicated that the committee needed more time to read through the legislation and then suggested discussing it at the next meeting along with revisiting the issue of the Science Center Authority.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Steele moved that the committee chairmen draft a letter that incorporates the content of Rep. Garn's thoughts and do it on behalf of the committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bigelow also suggested that those who will testify in the future provide a brief written response to these questions with copies of any slides or materials used in the presentation.

5. Independent and Quasi-governmental Entities - Mr. Stewart E. Smith, Managing Research Analyst, distributed a table, "Quasi-governmental Entities from 63-95-102(b), UCA," and discussed the contents and how this tool could be used in making comparisons among the quasi-governmental entities. Mr Smith, acknowledging that there is no bright line separating entities which are quasi from those which are not, discussed some potential quasi-governmental entities that have not formally been identified as such.

6. Other Items - The committee discussed and scheduled meeting dates for the balance of the year as follows: August 1, 2000 at 1:00 p.m., August 30, 2000 at 9:00 a.m., September 27, 2000 at 9:00 a.m., October 25, 2000 at 9:00 a.m., and November 29, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn -

MOTION: Rep. Tyler moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.